

7.6 Recreation Supply Study

The Recreation Supply Study is primarily a recreation site and facility inventory. It focuses on the existing Project recreation facilities and their condition and includes an inventory of the type of recreation facilities, opportunities and accommodations available in the Project vicinity. It also identifies dispersed recreational sites near Project reservoirs and the status of any Wild and Scenic Rivers in the vicinity.

7.6.1 Pertinent Issue Questions

The Recreation Supply Study addresses the following recreational resource questions:

5. What are the material conditions of Project developed sites and facilities? Do Project recreational facilities on USFS land meet current design requirements (including accessibility)?
36. What are the regional recreational opportunities in view of the primary recreational opportunities at the Project?
- 40/48. Are there any and, if so, what is the status of any identified/designated Wild and Scenic River reaches (e.g., USFS, BLM, NRI, or state) affected by the Project?
59. What are the existing Project facilities (e.g., identify, inventory and map)?
60. Where are the dispersed recreational sites near Project facilities (e.g., identify and map)?
61. What are the existing recreational opportunities (note: includes opportunities at dispersed recreational sites near Project facilities)?

7.6.2 Background

The Project provides settings that attract recreating visitors who often stay for extended periods of time (i.e., not just passing by). The Project recreation facilities accommodate the needs of these visitors by providing for basic needs such as water and sanitation as well as visitor comfort in the form of tables, fire grills and formal sites in day use areas and campgrounds. It is important that the public visiting the Project is provided with safe and accessible facilities for their recreational experience.

In addition to the recreation use at numerous developed facilities, dispersed camping occurs along reservoir shorelines and roads in the Crystal Basin and dispersed day use occurs from people staying at Project facilities and recreating at other locations on the Forest (e.g., Wrights Lake). There are also informal access points to Silver Creek via Bryant Springs Road and Jay Bird Road, and the SFAR via Meadow Lane, Mosquito Road, North Canyon Road and Forebay Road near Camino Powerhouse.

When discussing recreation needs, it is necessary to identify what supply exists in terms of both opportunities and facilities. The Recreation Supply Study is designed to provide this information in both Project and regional aspects.

7.6.3 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study include:

- Documenting and describe the recreation opportunities
- Documenting and describe Project recreation facilities
- Documenting and describe non-Project recreation facilities/sites
- Identifying the existing condition (including accessibility) of Project recreation facilities and determine consistency with management plans
- Identifying management direction for the recreation resources
- Answering all pertinent issue questions listed above in 7.6.1

7.6.4 Study Area and Sampling Locations

The study area for determining the regional recreation supply in the vicinity of the Project will include the Highways 50, 80, and 88 corridors, between the California Central Valley and the Highway 395 corridor.

The study area for condition and accessibility inventories will include all of the developed Project recreation facilities including:

Crystal Basin--Northshore Campground, Red Fir Group Campground, Pleasant Campground, Loon Lake Day Use Area, Loon Lake Campground, Loon Lake Group Campgrounds, Loon Lake Equestrian Campground, Loon Lake Equestrian Group Campground, Loon Lake Chalet, Loon Lake Wilderness Trailhead, Loon Lake Sanitation Station, Gerle Creek Campground, Airport Flat Campground, Gerle Creek Day Use Area, Angel Creek Day Use Area, Yellowjacket Campground, Wolf Creek Campground, Camino Cove Campground, West Point Campground, Jones Fork Campground, Lone Rock Campground, Fashoda Campground and Day Use Area, Sunset Campground, Big Silver Campground, Azalea Cove Campground, Union Valley Bike Trail, Sunset Sanitation Station, Wolf Creek Sanitation Station, Wench Creek Campground, Ice House Campgrounds, Northwind Campground, Strawberry Point Campground, Ice House Day Use Area, Crystal Basin Information Station, Cleveland Corral Information Station, and all developed boat launch facilities at Loon Lake, Gerle Creek, Union Valley and Ice House reservoirs.

Canyonlands--primitive boat launches at Junction, Brush Creek and Slab Creek reservoirs.

Although dispersed use is prevalent throughout the ENF, much of it occurs near Project reservoirs. The study area to identify dispersed recreation sites will be generally within one-quarter of a mile of Project reservoirs (the study area and process for identifying dispersed sites is described further in Study Methods and Schedule).

The study area for assessing Wild and Scenic River status will include all river reaches below Project impoundments between Rubicon Reservoir and Folsom Dam.

7.6.5 Information Needed From Other Studies

Any pertinent information developed in the whitewater boating studies. Recreation activity information from Visitor Use and Impact Study will be used to develop the supply of opportunities.

7.6.6 Study Methods And Schedule

REVIEW OF PUBLISHED OR OTHERWISE AVAILABLE INFORMATION-A review of the following ENF data will be completed in 2002: facility condition inventory reports, ADA surveys, transition plans, meaningful measures standards and data, trail condition inventory, GIS map of dispersed campsites, wilderness permit data and wilderness campsite inventory (code-a-site). These sources will be reviewed to determine if there is information lacking on any of the sites in the study area. A review of existing plans and documents will be made to identify the status of any Wild and Scenic Rivers and to identify regional recreation opportunities. These would include: EDC Trails Plan, El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Plan, SFAR River Management Plan and supporting documents, LRMP's for ENF, TNF and LTBMU, California Travel Parks Association.

CONDITION INVENTORY-For developed sites where condition information is not available or is insufficient, inventories will be conducted in 2002 for condition and accessibility using established Forest Service standards (condition standards and accessibility guidelines established by the Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas).

INTERVIEWS WITH AGENCIES AND PRIVATE RESORT OPERATORS-Key operational staff will be contacted to gather basic information regarding recreation facilities such as facility capacity, season of use, and type of accommodations. Information on any planned facility development will also be acquired. Interviews would be initiated in 2002 and completed by the fall of 2003.

IDENTIFICATION OF DISPERSED SITES- Identification of the dispersed sites (including sites or river access points in the High Country, Crystal Basin and Canyonlands) will be made in consultation with the ENF and other interested participants. Differentiation will be made between dispersed camping sites and dispersed day use sites. The process of identifying the sites will begin with a review of a GIS map layer that identifies dispersed sites located by ENF staff with GPS equipment. Generally, all identified sites within one-quarter of a mile of Project reservoirs (including locations or river access points in the High Country, Crystal Basin and Canyonlands), as well as other

sites beyond the one-quarter mile zone identified in consultation with the ENF and other interested participants, and agreed to by SMUD, will be included in the Recreation Supply Study. These locations will be provided to other Technical Working Groups that require this information to complete the other resource studies. There may be exceptions to this qualification and these will be discussed and resolved with the ENF and interested participants and documented by the Licensee. This task to identify the dispersed sites will begin in February 2002 and should be completed by the end of March 2002. Available information about these locations will be obtained and reviewed for adequacy from ENF dispersed site data. If this information is unavailable or insufficient, site visits will be made to the locations during the summer 2002 and information will be gathered that includes the approximate size of the area and the proximity of the site to shoreline, roads or other sensitive areas.

7.6.7 Analysis

The information developed in this study will be used to assess the adequacy of the developed Project recreation facilities relative to established standards for health and safety and accessibility. It will also include a discussion of dispersed and other recreation opportunities that are available in the vicinity of the Project. The regional supply of recreation facilities will provide a context for the Project recreation facilities and will be used in preparing the Recreation Needs Assessment and, ultimately, the Project Recreation Plan. The location of the developed and dispersed use sites will be used to define study areas for other resource studies.

7.6.8 Study Output

The study output will be mostly narrative report with tables displaying Project facility condition and capacity data. It will include photographs of facilities and a discussion of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the Project. It will be organized by geographical location (High Country, Crystal Basin and Canyonlands) and include the issue questions addressed, objectives, study area, methods, results, analysis, discussion and conclusions. Maps that show the locations and configurations of the developed recreation facilities and the dispersed sites will also be included in the report. The report will be prepared in a format that allows the information to be inserted directly into the Licensee-prepared Draft Environmental Assessment that will be submitted to the FERC with the Licensee's application for a new license.

7.6.9 Preliminary Estimated Study Cost

SMUD's consultant estimates that this study will cost \$29,000 ± 20 percent.

7.6.10 Recreation and Aesthetic TWG Endorsement

This study plan was approved on February 22, 2002 by the following entities of the TWG: ENF, SWRCB, American River Recreation Association, PCWA, NPS, BLM and SMUD. This study plan will be sent out to other members of the Recreation and Aesthetics TWG for their consideration.

The Plenary Group approved this study plan on March 6, 2002. The participants at the meeting who said they could "live with" the study plan were: Taxpayers of EDC, ENF, Camp Lotus/ARRA, SMUD, EDC, PG&E, EDC Citizens for Water, PCWA, NPS, BLM, CDFG, California Outdoors, and SWRCB. None of the participants at the meeting said they could not "live with" the study plan.

7.6.11 Literature Cited

None.